Greetings!
Regular services are re-starting in the benefice this Sunday, with Morning Prayer at Stanton Prior (9.30am) and Morning Worship at Farmborough (11am).

During the inter-regnum following Preb Jan's retirement we are dependent on visiting clergy to celebrate Holy Communion. Tom Cook has done a fantastic job at tracking down potential clergy but was unable to find anyone for this Sunday at Farmborough.

This week's virtual service has been prepared by Judith, who suggested the hymn 'There's a wideness in God's mercy', to the beautiful tune 'Corvedale', composed by Maurice Bevan. Here it is, sung by a church in Maida Vale, with words to sing along to:

https://youtu.be/vJwfT3SY_PU

Several composers have set the words from today's psalm (Teach me O Lord). They include the Tudor composer William Byrd (here sung by Guildford Cathedral choir):

https://youtu.be/2FdkskCbBsA

Thomas Attwood's well-known setting (19th C) is sung by Somerville College (Oxford) choir on a visit to Berlin:

https://youtu.be/lAmWl8xWmZQ

or, an electronic version you might like to sing with:

https://youtu.be/nTgQUjb86UU

There is also an attractive version by the contemporary composer, Philip Stopford, sung by Melisma:

https://youtu.be/lc-h2xG6LI4

Finally, this week's contribution from Martin, Revelation Song – J.L. Riddle with lyrics adapted from Revelation 5 of the New Testament. Kari Jobe is one of the great voices of the evangelistic worship movement. Eight minutes of spirit-filled, charismatic worship from the Passion concert of 2013:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dZMBrGGmeE

Happy listening/singing!
Chris

Sunday 6th September Trinity 13

Show us, O God of mercy, that no sin is so great that it cannot be confessed; no wound so deep that it cannot be healed, and no sinner so lost that grace cannot bring them home. Amen *(William Booth; 1829-1912)*

CONFESSION

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51)

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

COLLECT

Almighty God, who called your church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself; help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119: 33-40, Romans 13: 8-end, Matthew 18: 15-20

REFLECTION The gospel passage is part of a response from Jesus to a question from his disciples; previously in chapter 18, Jesus has spelt out the way he wants the members of his community – not a church as we know it, but a gathering of his like-minded followers – to live their lives, with love, humility and self-discipline. God wants his people to turn away from doing wrong, or falling short – the real meaning of 'sin'. Then, Jesus sets out a way for his followers to help with reconciliation when someone is in need of pastoral mediation. This structured and well-meaning aid to reconciliation is very much grounded in the ancient system of Jewish law. By dealing with a problem quietly and systematically, it would, hopefully, be resolved. The reference to 'Gentiles and tax-collectors' as being the equivalent of outcasts sounds unfair, until we remember that Jesus goes out of his way to include these, too, in his living community of faith. And he reminds his listeners that they will have God with them in any of the loving care they show towards anyone who is in need of being brought back to the fold.

PRAYERS

Lord, we pray for our world, giving thanks for individuals and organisations spending time mediating in its troubles. We pray especially for diplomats, and for the work of the United Nations and the World Health Organisation….

O Lord Jesus, stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people, to heal and restore, and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love. (A prayer from the Middle East)

We pray for the sick and suffering, the lonely, the anxious and the sad. We name before you all those in our own minds at this time…….. We continue to pray for all medical staff, and all who are engaged in medical research. Grant them all the resources they need in their dedicated search for healing……

Give us, we pray you, gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love. (A New Zealand Prayer Book).

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your chosen version)

WE SHARE THE GRACE

A FINAL PRAYER

Grant we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Thomas Cranmer)*